



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

NEWS RELEASE

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SOME TENNESSEE USERS OF BUSPAR DRUG MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR REFUNDS

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers today announced some consumers will be getting refunds after they were allegedly overcharged for an anti-anxiety drug manufactured by Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Checks were being mailed today to an estimated 1,143 Tennesseans who filed claims for reimbursement after they bought the drug BuSpar. The total award for those affected in Tennessee is \$655,810.61. More than \$37 million in settlement funds will be distributed to consumers in each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the territories.

"We want to make sure Tennesseans are never charged more than they should be for medication," Attorney General Paul G. Summers said. "We hope this agreement will help compensate those who were unfairly charged too much money."

The multistate agreement was originally filed in 2001 after states discovered the primary defendant, Bristol-Myers Squibb, had allegedly filed fraudulent patents and entered into agreements with Watson Pharma, Inc. and Danbury Pharmacal, Inc. The firms are alleged to have conspired to keep cheaper, generic versions of the drug off the market from Jan. 1, 1998 to Jan. 31, 2003. All the firms were sued by the states and ultimately entered the agreement.

Those consumers who bought the drugs were urged to file claims through the BuSpar Antitrust Litigation Administrator through a variety of advertisements and notices. As a result, the federal district judge overseeing the BuSpar Settlement approved the payment of claims from the Consumer Settlement Fund this month. For more information, visit the www.busparsettlement.com website.